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A

WORD in SEASON;

OR

ADVICE

TO AN

ENGLISHMAN.

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A

WORD in SEASON, &c.

DO *you* ever *think?* Do *you* ever *conſider?* If not, it is high Time you ſhould. *Think* a little before it is too late. *Conſider* what a State you are in. And not you alone, but our *whole Nation.* We *would* have War. And we have it. And what is the Fruit? Our Armies broken in Pieces, and Thouſands of our Men either killed on the Spot or made Priſoners in one Day. Nor is this all. We have now Wars at our own Doors: Our own Countrymen turning their Swords againſt their Brethren. And have any hitherto been able to ſtand before them? Have they not already ſeized upon one whole Kingdom? Friend, either think now, or ſleep on and take your Reſt, 'till you drop into the Pit where you will ſleep no more.

2. *Think,* what is likely to follow, if an Army of *French* alſo ſhould blow the Trumpet in our Land? What Deſolation may we not then expect? What a wide-ſpread *Field of Blood?* And what can the End of theſe Things be? If they prevail, what but *Popery* and *Slavery?* Do you know what the Spirit of *Popery* is? Did you never hear of that Queen *Mary*'s Reign; and of the holy Men who were then burnt alive by the *Papiſts,* becauſe they did not dare to do as they did; to worſhip Angels and Saints; to pray to the Virgin *Mary*; to bow down to Images, and the like? If we had a King of this Spirit, whoſe Life would be ſafe? At leaſt, what honeſt Man's? A Knave indeed might turn with the Times: But what a dreadful Thing would this be to a Man of Conſcience? "Either turn, or burn. Ei-"ther go into that Fire, or into *the Fire that ſhall never* "*be quenched.*"

3. And can you dream that your *Property* would be any ſafer than your Conſcience? Nay, how ſhould that be? Nothing is plainer than that the Pretender cannot be King of *England,* unleſs it be by Conqueſt. But every Con-

queror may do what he will. The Laws of the Land are no Laws to him. And who can doubt, but one who ſhould conquer *England* by the Aſſiſtance of *France*, would copy after the *French* Rules of Government?

4. How dreadful then is the Condition wherein we ſtand? On the very Brink of utter Deſtruction? But why are we thus? I am afraid the Anſwer is too plain to every conſiderate Man: Becauſe of our SINS; becauſe we have well-nigh *filled up the Meaſure of our Iniquities:* For what Wickedneſs is there under Heaven, which is not found among us at this Day? Not to inſiſt on the *Sabbath-breaking* in every Corner of our Land, the *Thefts*, *Cheating*, *Fraud*, *Extortion*, the *Injuſtice*, *Violence*, *Oppreſſion*, the *Lying* and *Diſſimulation*, the *Robberies*, *Sodomies* and *Murders* (which, with a thouſand unnamed Villanies, are common to us and our Neighbour Chriſtians of *Holland*, *France* and *Germany*): Conſider over and above, what a plentiful Harveſt we have of Wickedneſs almoſt peculiar to ourſelves? For who can vie with us, in the Direction of Courts of *Juſtice?* In the Management of *public Charities?* Or in the *accompliſhed bare-faced* Wickedneſs, which ſo abounds in our *Priſons*, and *Fleets*, and *Armies?* Who in *Europe* can compare with the *Sloth*, *Lazineſs*, *Luxury* and *Effeminacy* of the *Engliſh Gentry?* Or with the *Drunkenneſs*, and ſtupid ſenſeleſs *Curſing* and *Swearing*, which are daily ſeen and heard in our Streets; one great Inlet, no doubt, to that Flood of Perjury, which ſo *increaſes* among us Day by Day; the like whereunto is not to be found in any other Part of the habitable Earth.

5. Add to theſe (what is indeed the Source as well as Completion of all), that open and profeſſed DEISM and *Rejection* of the GOSPEL, that public avowed Apoſtacy from the Chriſtian Faith which reigns among the *Rich* and *Great*, and hath ſpread from them to all Ranks and Orders of Men (the Vulgar themſelves not excepted), and made us a People fitted for *the Deſtroyer of the* Gentiles.

6. Becauſe of theſe Sins is this Evil come upon us: For (whether you are aware of it or no) there is a GOD; a GOD, who tho' He ſits upon the Circle of the Heavens, ſees and knows all that is done upon Earth. And this GOD is holy: He does not love Sin: He is juſt, render-

ing

ing to all their Due: And He is ſtrong; there is none able to withſtand Him: He has all Power in Heaven and in Earth: He is patient indeed, and ſuffers long; but He will at laſt repay the Wicked to his Face: He often does ſo in *this* World; eſpecially, when a whole Nation is *openly* and *inſolently* wicked. Then doth GOD *ariſe and maintain his own Cauſe*; then doth He terribly ſhew both his Juſtice and Power; that if theſe will not repent, yet others may fear, and flee from the Wrath to come.

7. There hath been among them that feared GOD, a general Expectation for many Years, that the Time was coming, when GOD would thus ariſe, to be avenged on this ſinful Nation. At length the Time is come. The Patience of GOD, long provoked, gives Place to Juſtice. The Windows of Heaven begin to be opened, to rain down Judgments on the Earth. And yet, with what Tenderneſs does He proceed! In the Midſt of Wrath remembering Mercy. By how ſlow Degrees does his Vengeance move! Nor does his whole Diſpleaſure yet ariſe.

8. *Brethren, Countrymen, Engliſhmen*, what ſhall we do! To-day! while it is called To-day! before the Seaſon of Mercy is quite expired, and our *Deſtruction cometh as a Whirlwind?* Which Way can we remove the Evils we feel? Which Way prevent thoſe we fear? Is there any better Way than the making GOD our Friend? The ſecuring his Help againſt our Enemies? Other Helps are little worth. We ſee *Armies* may be deſtroyed, or even flee away from old Men and Children. *Fleets* may be daſhed to Pieces in an Hour, and ſunk in the Depth of the Sea. *Allies* may be treacherous, or ſlow, or fooliſh, or weak, or cowardly. But GOD is a Friend who cannot betray, and whom none can either bribe or terrify. And who is wiſe, or ſwift, or ſtrong like Him? Therefore, whatever we do, let us make GOD our Friend: Let us with all Speed remove the Cauſe of his Anger: Let us caſt away our Sins: Then ſhall his Love have free Courſe, and He will ſend us Help, ſufficient Help againſt all our Enemies.

9. Come; will *you* begin? Will *you*, by the Grace of GOD, amend *one*, and that without Delay? Firſt then, *own* thoſe Sins which have long cried for Vengeance in the Ears of GOD. *Confeſs*, that we and all (and *you* in particular)

particular) deſerve for our inward and outward Abomina-
tions, not only to be ſwept from the Face of the Earth,
but to ſuffer the Vengeance of eternal Fire. Never aim
at *excuſing* either yourſelf or others. Let your Mouth be
ſtopt. Plead guilty before GOD. Above all, *own* that
Impudence of Wickedneſs, that utter *Careleſſneſs*, that *perfect*
Stupidity, which is hardly to be found in any Part of the
Earth (at leaſt, not in ſuch a Degree), except in *England*.
Do you not know what I mean? You was not long ſince
praying to GOD for "Damnation upon your own Soul."
One who has heard you, ſaid, "Is that right? Does not
"GOD hear? What if He takes you at your Word?" You
replied, with equal *Impudence* and *Ignorance*, "What, are
"you a *Methodiſt?*"—What, if he is a *Turk?* Muſt thou
therefore be a *Heathen?*—GOD humble thy *bruiſh de-
viliſh* Spirit.

10. Lay thee in the Duſt for this, and for all thy Sins. Let thy Laughter be turned into Heavineſs, thy Joy into Mourning, thy ſenſeleſs Jollity and Mirth into Sorrow and Brokenneſs of Heart. This is no Time to eat, and drink, and riſe up to play; but to afflict thy Soul before the LORD. Deſire of GOD a deep piercing Senſe of the enormous Sins of the Nation, and of thy own. Remember that great Example; how when the King of *Nineveh* was warned of the near approaching Vengeance of GOD, he cauſed it to be proclaimed, *Let none taſte any Thing; let them not feed, nor drink Water: But let them be covered with Sackcloth, and cry mightily to* GOD; *yea, let them turn every one from his evil Way: Who can tell, if* GOD *will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce Anger, that we periſh not.* Jonah iii.

11. Let them *turn* every one from his evil Way. Ceaſe to do Evil. Learn to do well. And ſee that this Reformation be *univerſal*; for there is no ſerving GOD by Halves. Avoid *all* Evil, and do *all* Good unto *all* Men; elſe you only deceive your Soul. See alſo, that it be from the *Heart*. Lay the Ax to the Root of the Tree. Cut up, by the Grace of GOD, evil Deſire, Pride, Anger, Unbelief. Let this be your continual Prayer to GOD, the Prayer of your Heart (as well as Lips) "LORD, I *would*
"believe; help Thou mine Unbelief! Give me the Faith
"that

" that worketh by Love. *The Life which I now live,*
" let me *live by Faith in the Son of* GOD. Let me *ſo be-*
" *lieve*, that I may *love Thee with all my Heart, and Mind,*
" *and Soul, and Strength!* And that I may love every
" Child of Man, even *as Thou haſt loved us!* Let me
" daily *add to my Faith, Courage, Knowledge, Temperance,*
" *Patience, Brotherly-kindneſs, Charity; that ſo an Entrance*
" *may be miniſtered to me abundantly, into the everlaſting*
" *Kingdom of our* LORD *and Saviour* Jeſus Chriſt."

An HYMN.

REgard, Thou righteous GOD, and true,
Regard thy weeping People's Prayer,
Before the Sword our Land go through,
Before thy lateſt Plague we bear,
Let All to Thee their Smiter turn,
Let All beneath thine Anger mourn.

The Sword, which firſt bereav'd abroad,
We now within *our* Borders ſee:
We ſee, but ſlight thy nearer Rod,
So oft ſo kindly warn'd by Thee:
We ſtill thy warning Love deſpiſe,
And dare thine utmoſt Wrath to riſe.

Yet for the faithful Remnant's Sake
Thine utmoſt Wrath a while defer,
If haply we at laſt may wake,
And trembling at Deſtruction near,
The *Cauſe* of all our Evils *own*,
And leave the Sins for which we groan.

Or if the Wicked will not mourn,
And 'ſcape the long-ſuſpended Blow,
Yet ſhall it to thy Glory turn,
Yet ſhall they all thy Patience know,
Thy ſlighted Love and Mercy clear,
And vindicate thy Juſtice here.

For

For His Majeſty King GEORGE.

IMmortal King of Kings,
Whoſe Favour or whoſe Frown
Monarchs and States to Honour brings,
Or turns them upſide down;
To Thee in Danger's Hour
We for our Sovereign cry,
Protect him by thy gracious Power,
And ſet him up on high.

Not by a mighty Hoſt
Can he deliver'd be;
Let others in their Numbers truſt,
We look, O LORD, to Thee:
Help to thy Servant ſend,
And ſtrengthen from above,
And ſtill thy Miniſter defend
By thine Almighty Love.

The Spirit of thy Grace,
Thy heavenly Unction ſhed,
And Hoſts of guardian Angels place
Around his ſacred Head:
Confound whoe'er oppoſe,
Or force them to retire;
Be Thou a Tower againſt his Foes,
Be Thou a Wall of Fire.

O bring him out of all
His *ſanctified* Diſtreſs,
And by his Name thy Servant call,
And fill him with thy Peace:
Shew him, Almighty LORD,
That Thou his Saviour art,
And ſpeak the Soul-converting Word,
My Son, give Me thy Heart!

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